

# A LETTER to a Member of the House of Commons, concerning the Article of the King's Speech about the Union with Scotland.

**I**N obedience to your Commands, I shall, as distinctly and shortly as I can, give you my Sentiments concerning this Article of the King's Speech about the Union with Scotland, which he delivered in these words.

"I must recommend also to your Consideration, an Union with Scotland; I do not mean it should now be entered upon; but they having proposed this to me sometime since, and the Parliament there having nominated Commissioners for that purpose, I should be glad, that Commissioners might also be nominated here to treat with them, and to see if such Terms could be agreed on, as might be for the benefit of both Nations, so as to be ready to be presented to you in some future Session.

There is an Union of Force between a Conquered State, and that which conquers; whereby the first without any Co-ordinate share in the Legislative Power, is subjected to the will of the other. This is the Case of Wales, which stands united unto the Imperial Crown of this Realm. There is again a second kind of Union of two Countreys drawn into an Uniformity of Common-Law and Commerce, with preservation of the Local Constitutions, Privileges and Customs, so far as may conduce to the Common weal of both. In this second kind of Union, this Kingdom of England, and the Dominion of Wales, are already united; And it is this kind of Union which the Ancient Kingdom of Scotland at this time desireth. This is a happiness which tendeth so much to make the Isle of Britain become the Envy of her Neighbours, the Terror of her Enemies, the Umpire of Europe, and the Bulwark of the Protestant Religion, that no True Englishman in the present state of Affairs, can read or hear of this Article of His Majesty's Speech, without endeavours or Prayers that it may be effectually pursued by both Houses of Parliament.

Our Civil Government is Monarchical; and what Mischiefs should follow in England upon the overthrow of its Monarchy, they only can imagine, who have seen our Late Civil Wars: From which Evils nothing can deliver us but a continued Miracle (as Affairs now stand) unless this Union with Scotland, proposed by their Parliament, be entertained by ours.

Those who in the publick Affairs of Scotland have made the greatest noise, are well affected to Presbytery; but it's certain that Seven and twenty of Two and thirty Counties of that Kingdom are against it: And the greatest part of those men who are for an Episcopal Government in the Church, are supposed to be uneasy that they are not employed in the Service of their Countrey: And since their very Enemies do confess that they are men of Parts and Power, who knows what ill effects that may produce? The Scotch Convention forfeited King James for his misgovernment; and it's doubtless the Interest of France to assist him in the asserting of it by force of Arms while he lives; and his pretended Son after him, whom the French Air will never suffer to die, while the Name of our William is so fatal to their Lewis.

Now what can so effectually take off the generality of the Scottish Nation from temptations unto a Revolt from our King, as the taking them into our Kingdom by a fit union with us in our Laws and Commerce? It is certain nothing but Ambition or Avarice of those Scotchmen who waited at Court about our King James the First, and King Charles the Second, made that Design of Union fall twice to the ground; but now, since the best thinking Men, and Persons of the greatest Interest in Scotland have not that Bias from the Court, to make them prefer private Interest to the common Good, while this Design is seriously proposed by them; (and doubtless they will give a suitable price for the Bargain;) if it be coldly entertained by us, and for our fault a third time fall to the ground, we may conclude from the *Præferendum Scotorum Ingenium*, that all those Evils may come upon our State, which only this Union can avert. In the Reigns of the last Four Kings, because Scotland remain'd a distinct Kingdom from this, the Subjects there never rebelled; but the quelling of the Rebellion first cost us dear in our Money; and afterwards the use made of that defeat of their Rebels, was some Act or other of *Prærogative* to be an introduction of the like in this Kingdom. Again, it is very palpable, that from these Kingdoms remaining two Bodies Politick under one Head, it does not only proceed that the Seeds of Sedition in Scotland can disturb our State, but an inclination of

Revolt



Revolt can never be rooted out of that People. For while the *Scots* (who are men sensible enough of Interest or Honour) reflect, that while their King keeps his Court in *England*, their Money is expended here, without any return from hence, but what comes to them with an Army of ill-paying Soldiers: When they reflect, that these hundred years their Trading hath been in so miserable a decay, and that their subjection to the *English* King, without their Union to the Kingdom, is the principal Cause thereof; When they reflect, that from thence it proceeds, that they have neither Plantations, nor trading to them, no receiving of Foreign Ambassadors, or sending Embassies abroad; When they reflect, that from thence it proceeds, that their Ancient Leagues are openly violated by those Princes of *Europe*, who before courted their Alliance, when they had a name among the Nations; and particularly, that the abatement of fifty *Sols per Tun in Franco*, is taken away: When, I say, all *Scots men* reflect upon these Disadvantages which have followed upon the accession of their Crown to the Imperial Crown of *England*, if now we grudge them the benefit which might accrew unto them by the Union which they now propose, may we not reasonably fear that they may be tempted to seek those Advantages another way, and to stand for the pretended Title of the Duke of *Rosay*, to the fatal disturbance of this Kingdom and Government? It's true, their Condition may prove worse than is that they are now in; but the Event of Wars is uncertain; and in all the Battels betwixt our Ancestors and theirs, we always lost more in one defeat, than they had to lose, or we could gain from them in three Victories.

This is  
the Title  
of the  
Prince of  
Scotland.

Our Ecclesiastical Government is Episcopal, and that is the first of the Three Estates of the Kingdom; now this Church-Government is already abolished by the *Scottish* Parliament, and without the interposition of this, nothing can get it restored, under whatever rectification; and nothing can render our Parliament's Endeavour successful for that effect, but a Serious Treaty set on foot for this Union (whereas, if, before such an Union, Presbytery were once settled there, the Covenant should be infallibly renewed (since that is the Idol of all the Bigots of Presbytery) and if that Nation were once engaged by the Solemn League to bring this Kingdom to an uniformity in Church-Government

with them, should not all who are zealous for the Church, have difficulty against the *Scots* Covenanters, to preserve it from being a second time destroyed by the Presbyterian Kirk?

In the second place, although the Local Constitutions, and the Common-Law of *England* be for the most part excellently contrived to secure King and People in their Just Rights and Priviledges; yet the Laws in *Scotland*, when compared unto them, they may deserve singular Veneration, as most happily framed; and therefore doubtless our *English* Laws may be capable of further amendment for the greater happiness of King and Subjects; and such a rectification cannot be hoped, unless an Order to enter into, and preserve the Union of both Kingdoms in the Isle of *Britain*.

Lastly, The true foundation of Trading is the multitude of Traders; and therefore when our Foreign Plantations have dispeopled *England*, and yet themselves are liker Forests than Colonies, that Union with *Scotland* cannot but enrich our *English* Commerce, which shall assist us with so many men skill'd in Navigation, patient of toil and all other contingent Inconveniences, heat and cold, hunger and thirst, or by Land. Then after the skill and hands which *Scotland* can give us for managing our Trade, we may have likewise from them the benefit of their safe Havens and good Harbors, whereby our Rich Bottoms may have easie passage betwixt the *Southern* and *Northern* Countreys. But besides this benefit of Hands, Harbours and Havens; after our Union with *Scotland*, our Exportation and Importation can be with greater advantage carried on; for by it we may have from them Staple Commodities at easie Rates; and they may furnish themselves with what Goods we have, and which now they take from other Countries, and all this will heighten our Customs; and the heightning of them may encrease the Revenue of the Crown, and that take away the necessity of Extraordinary Taxes, to the common Ease of the Subject. This is evident to any man of unprejudiced Reason. And that this Letter swell no bigger, enough is said to convince you, That this Article of His Majesty's Speech, concerning Union with *Scotland*, deserves to be considered by all *Englishmen* who are Lovers of their Country.

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